

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**Filtering Process for Information Retrieval Systems**

the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_.

☐ under Application No. \_\_

☐ with Express Mail No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Application Number not yet known).

☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e)(1) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

| U.S. Serial No. | Filing Date | Status  |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| 60/496,201      | 08/18/03    | Pending |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| U.S. Serial No. | Filing Date | Status |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|
|-----------------|-------------|--------|

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

| Country | Application No. | Filing Date | Priority Claimed   |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|--|
|         |                 |             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Patent

Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-139001 / 2003P00811 US01

I hereby appoint all registered practitioners associated with Customer Number 32864 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to:

**Customer Number 32864**

Direct all telephone calls to RAYMOND R. BERDIE, Reg. No. 50,769, at telephone number (612) 337-2588.

☒ For Assigned Inventions: I understand that the purpose of making this appointment is to permit prosecution of patent applications for the above-identified invention for the benefit of my assignee, and that this appointment does not create an attorney-client relationship between me and these appointees.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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